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EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.: EL683752700US

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. M-11315

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

) <u>PATENT APPLICATION</u>)
)) Art Unit: 2827
) Examiner: David E. Graybill
)
)))

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Listed below or on an attached Form PTO-1449 is information known to applicant(s). A copy of each listed publication and U.S. and foreign patent, except for pending U.S. applications, is being submitted herewith, along with a concise explanation of information in a foreign language, if any, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97-1.98.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed information be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the above-identified application. If form PTO-1449 is enclosed, the Examiner is requested to initial and return it in accordance with MPEP § 609.

This statement is not intended to represent that a search has been made or that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56.

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			-	(a) the colorest that apply):	
	This statement qualifies under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, subsection (b) because (check all that apply):				
		(1)	continued prosecution ap	of the application filing date and is other than a plication under § 1.53(d)	
		(2)	OR It is being filed within 3 months of OR		
		(3)	It is being filed before the mail d	ate of the first Office Action on the merits.	
		(4)	OR – It is being filed before the mailin continued examination u	g of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for nder § 1.114	
	37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). If this statement is being filed after the period specified in § 1.97(b), but before the mailing date of the earlier of a final office action under § 1.113, a notice of allowance under § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, then:				
	a certification as specified in § 1.97(e) is provided below; or				
	\boxtimes	a fee paym	of \$180.00 as set forth in § 1.17(p) ent of other papers filed together w	is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the rith this statement.	
	37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d). If this statement is being filed after the period specified in § 1.97(c), but on or before payment of the issue fee, then:				
	 A. a certification as specified in § 1.97(e) is completed below; and B. a fee of \$180.00 as set forth in § 1.17(p) is authorized below, enclosed, or included with the payment of other papers filed together with this statement. 				
\boxtimes	Fee Authorization. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the above-referenced fees of \$18 and charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Depot Account No. 50-0574 (Docket No. M-11315).				
•				Respectfully submitted,	
Date	d:	2,	127/03	BEVER, HOFFMAN & HARMS, LLP By: Lames E. Parsons, Reg. No. 34,691	
Tele	phone: ((408) 45 o. 0228	11-5906 88		
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Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031 U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE as are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number. Under the Paperwork Reduction Action of 1995, no person 09/895,501 Application Number Substitute for form 1449A/PTO FEB 2 7 2003 6/29/2001 Filing Date INFORMATION DISCO First Named Inventor: **Donald Craig Foster** STATEMENT BY APPL GROUP: 2827 Examiner name: D. Graybill (use as many sheets as necessary) M-11315 Attorney Docket Number of 1 Sheet U.S. PUBLISHED APPLICATION DOCUMENTS Pages, Columns, Lines Date of Publication Name of Patentee or Applicant of U.S. Patent Document Cited Examiner Where Relevant Info. of Cited Document Kind Code 2 Cited Document No. Number Initials* MM-DD-YYYY Appear (if known) U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS Pages, Columns, Lines Date of Publication Name of Patentee or Applicant of U.S. Patent Document Cited Examiner of Cited Document Where Relevant Info. Kind Code 2 Cited Document Initials* No. 1 Number Appear MM-DD-YYYY (if known) 6/16/1998 Anglin et al. 5767480 FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Pages, Columns, Date of Foreign Patent Document Lines Where Publication of T6 Relevant Info. Kind Code 5 Cited Document Name of Patentee or Applicant Cited Examiner MM-DD-YYYY Appear of Cited Document Office3 Number4 (if known) No. 1 Initials* OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

DATE CONSIDERED **EXAMINER** *EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³Enter Office that issued the document by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.